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From: CN=Alexis Strauss/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Wed 7/1/2009 8:21:16 PM
Subject: Monday's Bay Delta Briefing
[DeltaIssuePaper.doc](#)
[EPA Region 9 Delta Priorities.doc](#)
[3rdBDCPNOLtr.pdf](#)
[doinewsreleasejune2009.doc](#)

Tom H (ORC) and I will join you for this prep on Monday. Karen Schwinn and Sam Ziegler are on vacation, our two staff are out this week. See two briefing papers Tom attaches further below.

From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US

Background: Karen Schwinn and I gave a one-hour impromptu phone pre-briefing for Diane Thompson on (I think) Tuesday, June 23 or Wednesday, June 24. She had Mike Cough from the Oceans Office with her, but I don't think she had anyone else for any appreciable length of time. She was headed into a CEQ-called meeting with Dave Hayes (DOI Deputy), Rock Salt of the COE, and someone from NMFS and Ag. After the call, Diane T. asked for a point of contact in the Region, and that will be Karen.

Secretary Salazar, Dave Hayes, Mike Connor (new head of USBR) and some of their staff came out and did a town hall meeting in Fresno on Sunday (brave folks) and Dave did a series of stakeholder meetings on Monday. We were not invited, and did not attend, any of these meetings. I am running trap lines to see how the meetings went.

Briefing Laura Y:

I am going to attach the two briefing papers we gave to Diane T. One is a draft general briefing on Bay Delta, which we were working on in anticipation of a new RA. The other is a more focused list of things we would be doing and resources we might be spending as EPA in the Bay Delta arena. Like I said, we already sent these to Diane T., and I assume that OW will give them to Mr. Sussman. But maybe I shouldn't make that assumption.

I am also going to attach (1) the DOI press release from Dave Hayes' visit to Fresno; and (2) Our most recent NEPA comment letter on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which is the major focus of DOI and the stakeholders these days.

Overall:

What's going on here is that the new federal administration is trying to figure out whether and how to engage in California water issues. CEQ clearly wants this to be broader than just an Interior issue, but it unclear "who and how" to bring in other federal agencies. Based on what happened last weekend, it is fairly clear that at least DOI is jumping in with both feet.

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KAREN SCHWINN  
Associate Director

Water Division

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